



SKYBOUND

126

THE WALKING DEAD



113

ALL OUT WAR

CHAPTER 12

KIRKMAN • ADLARD • GAUDIANO • RATHBURN

IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING DEAD™

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Previously:

When the Saviors return to the Hilltop, they're not expecting to be met by a healthy Rick. He opens negotiations for an alliance that will establish a safe zone and barter system. Negan even sees some error in his ways, but at the moment of agreement, Rick slices Negan's throat.

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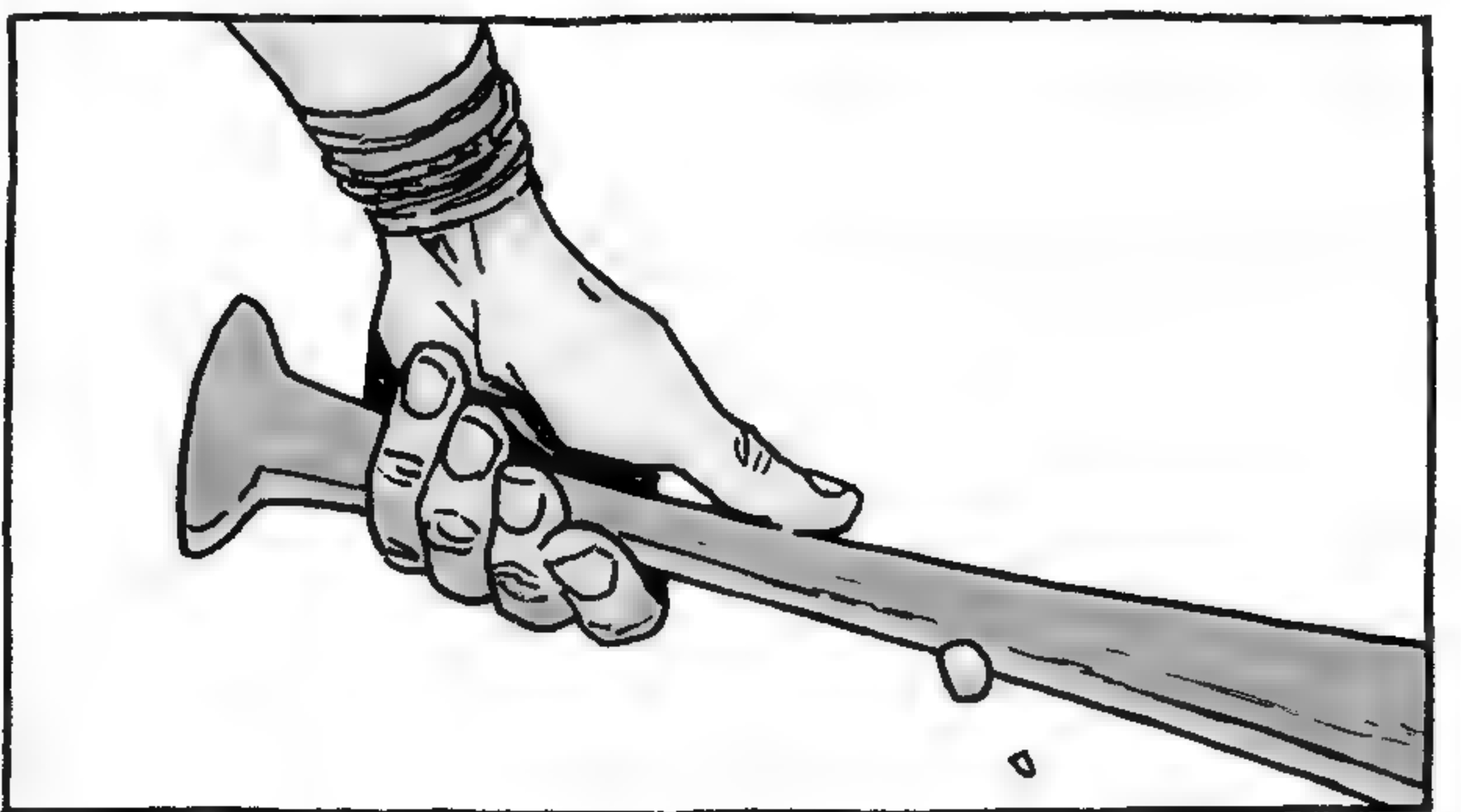
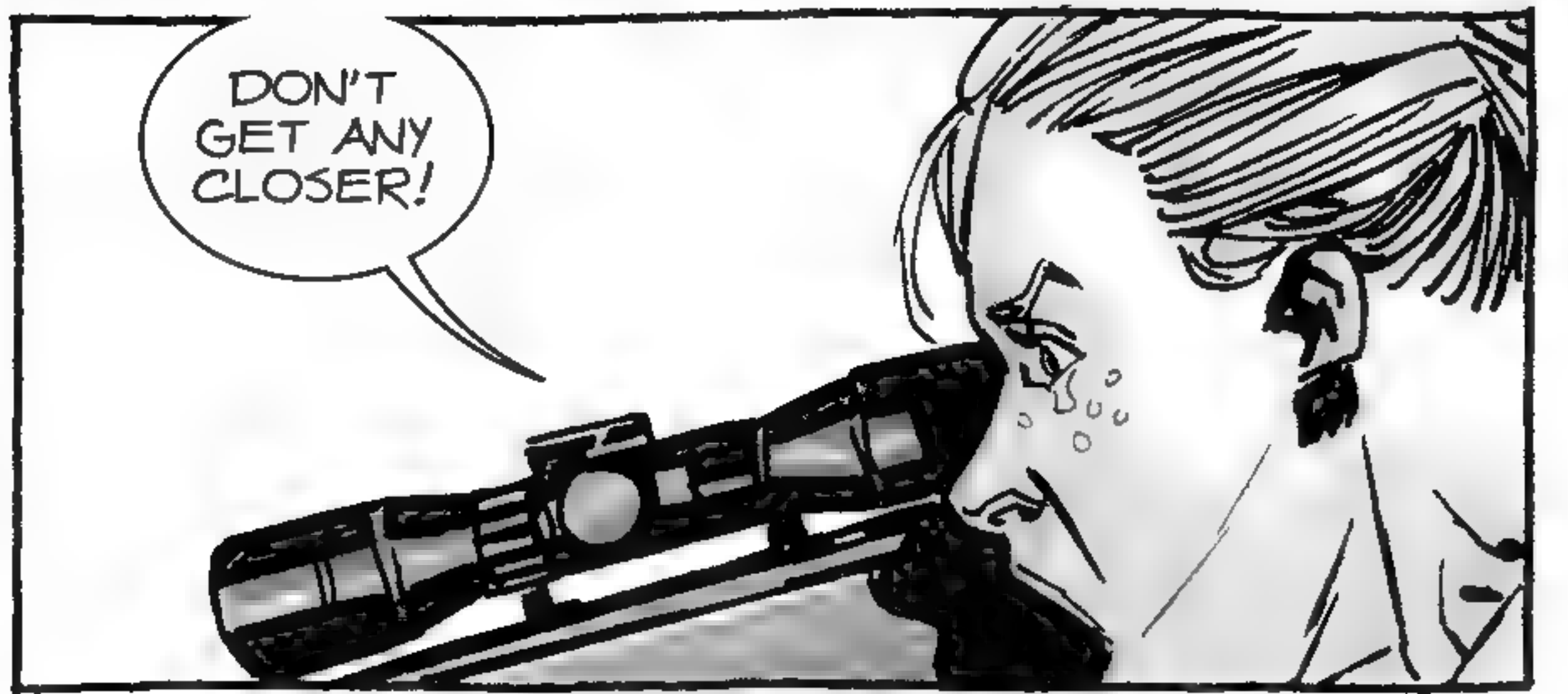
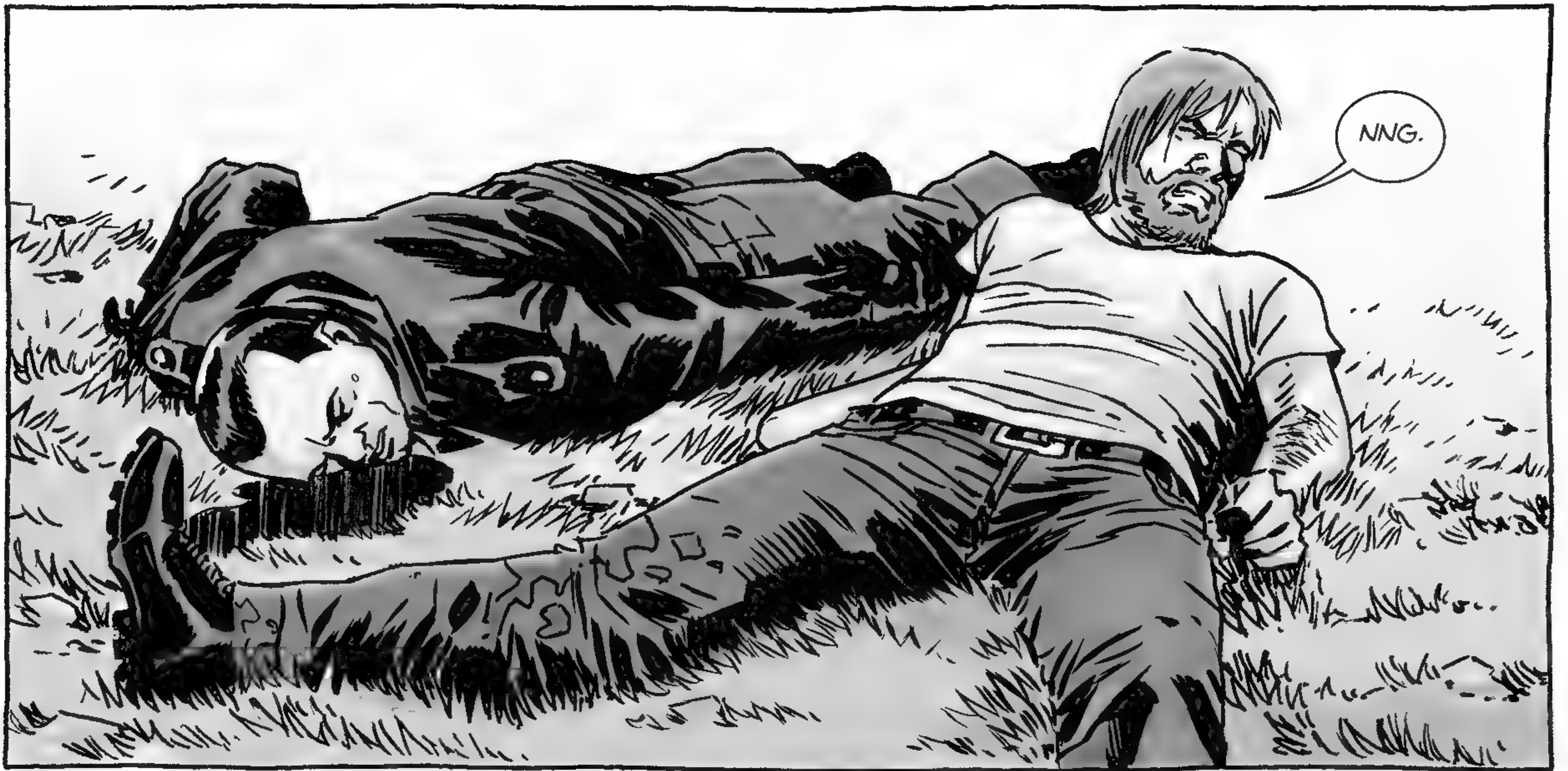










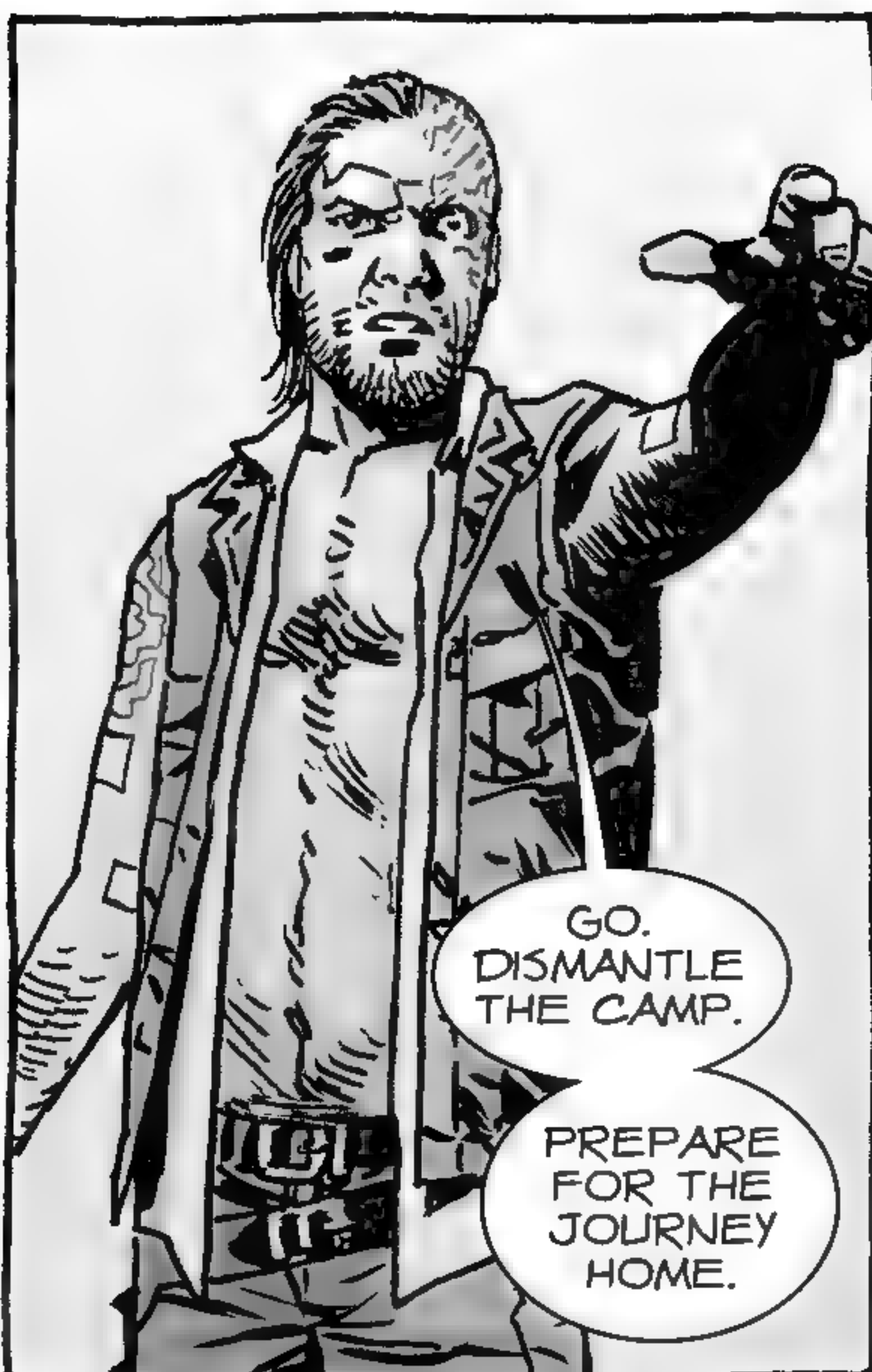


STAND
DOWN!

PUT AWAY
YOUR WEAPONS,
AND CALM DOWN.
THIS WAR IS
OVER.

NEGAN HAS
FALLEN! IF YOU
WANT TO SURVIVE--
YOU WILL FOLLOW
ME AS YOU
FOLLOWED
HIM!









I KNOW IT SOUNDS HARSH... BUT I THINK WE PUBLICLY EXECUTE HIM.

THAT'S THE ONLY WAY WE GIVE PEOPLE CLOSURE AFTER EVERYTHING HE'S DONE.



I AGREE, DAD.

HE HAS TO DIE.



NO.

THAT'S NOT WHO WE ARE. THAT'S NOT WHAT WE DO. THAT'S... IT'S WHO WE WERE.

WE'VE ALL KILLED TO SURVIVE... WE'VE HURT SO MANY WHO WANTED TO DO US HARM. THAT'S HOW WE MADE IT--HOW WE GOT HERE.



BUT NOW THAT WE'RE **HERE** WE HAVE A CHANCE TO **CHANGE** ALL THAT.



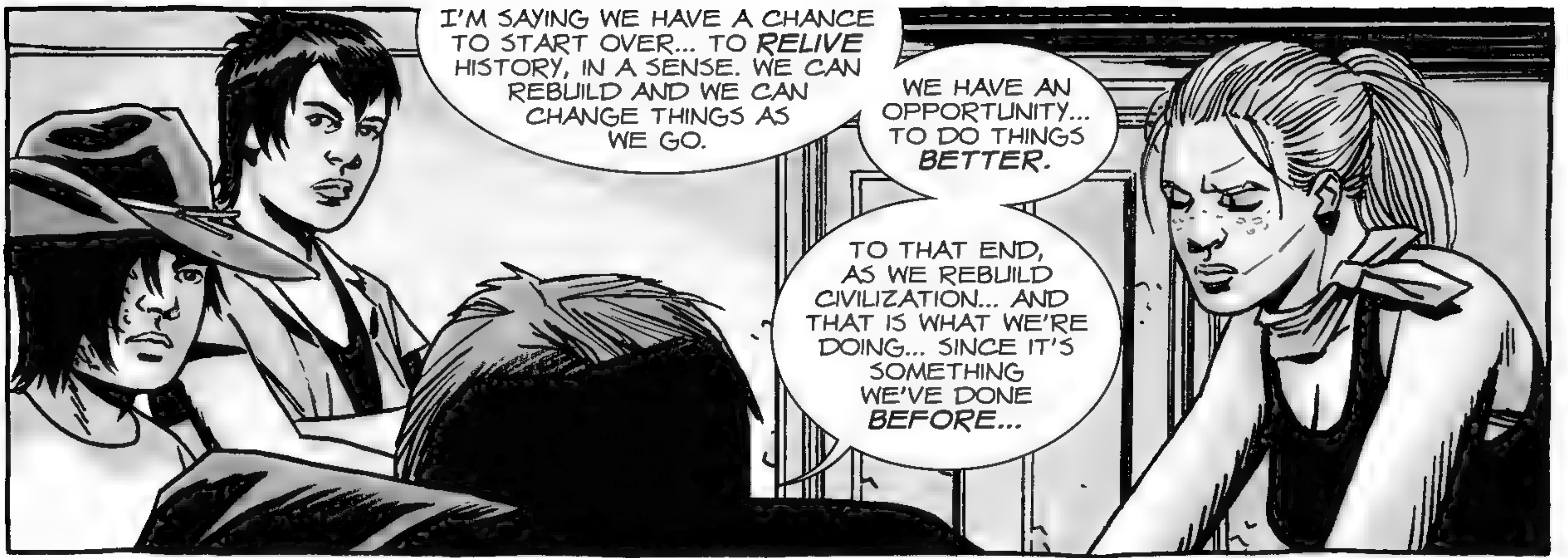
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS. NOT AFTER--

ANDREA, PLEASE.



WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, RICK?

YOU THINK THE MAN WHO KILLED GLENN... SHOULD LIVE?



I'M SAYING WE HAVE A CHANCE
TO START OVER... TO *RELIVE*
HISTORY, IN A SENSE. WE CAN
REBUILD AND WE CAN
CHANGE THINGS AS
WE GO.

WE HAVE AN
OPPORTUNITY...
TO DO THINGS
BETTER.

TO THAT END,
AS WE REBUILD
CIVILIZATION... AND
THAT IS WHAT WE'RE
DOING... SINCE IT'S
SOMETHING
WE'VE DONE
BEFORE...



I'D
PREFER
TO SKIP
THE UGLY
PARTS.



HE LIVES.
BECAUSE
WE'RE BETTER
THAN THAT.

*BETTER
THAN HIM.*

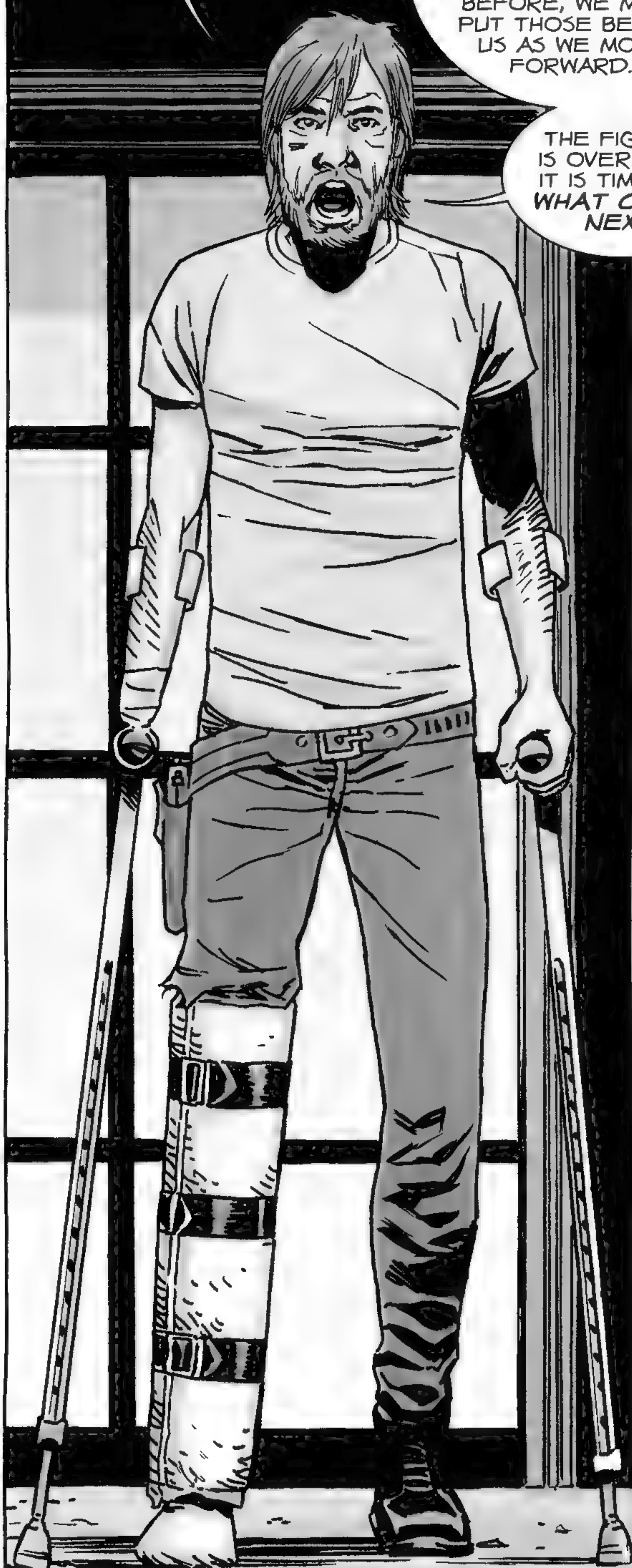


I DON'T
KNOW, I--
I THINK
GLENN WOULD
LIKE THAT.

OUR WAR
WITH THE
SAVIORS HAS
ENDED.

THE HILLTOP,
ALEXANDRIA,
THE KINGDOM, THE
SANCTUARY... THESE
ARE ALL JUST
PLACES. WHATEVER
DIFFERENCES WE HAD
BEFORE, WE MUST
PUT THOSE BEHIND
US AS WE MOVE
FORWARD.

THE FIGHTING
IS OVER... NOW
IT IS TIME FOR
**WHAT COMES
NEXT.**



WE STAND
HERE UNITED,
TOGETHER AS ONE
PEOPLE... AND IT IS
MY WISH FOR US
TO **REMAIN**
THAT WAY.

THERE WILL
ALWAYS BE "US
AGAINST THEM,"
BUT WE NEED TO
NEVER FORGET...
WE ARE "US" AND
THE DEAD ARE
"THEM."

WE HAVE
OUR ADVERSARY.
WE DON'T NEED TO
MAKE ANOTHER
FROM EACH OTHER.
IF WE WORK
TOGETHER, WE CAN
ACCOMPLISH SO
MUCH.

WE CAN
REMAKE THE
WORLD WE
REMEMBER... AND
WE CAN MAKE IT
BETTER.

WHO'S
WITH
ME?





WELL,
THAT SPEECH
WENT OVER
WELL.

THANKS.

AND
THANKS.



IT'S NOTHING. I
DON'T GET TO
HIT THE GYM AS
OFTEN AS I'D
LIKE.

IT'S GOOD
TO FLEX THE
MUSCLES
FROM TIME
TO TIME.



YOU THINK I'M
MAKING A
MISTAKE?

IT TOOK ME
A WHILE, BUT
I'VE LEARNED
NOT TO
QUESTION YOU,
RICK.



I THINK YOU MAY HAVE
A KNACK FOR THIS WHOLE
"LEADER" THING,
AFTER ALL.



MAYBE
SO.



ARE YOU GOING BACK WITH EZEKIEL, OR ARE YOU GOING BACK TO ALEXANDRIA WITH US?

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I WOULD GO BACK WITH EZEKIEL?



OH, COME ON. WE'VE BEEN A LITTLE PREOCCUPIED, BUT I'M NOT BLIND.

I KNOW THERE'S SOMETHING BETWEEN YOU TWO. I'M HAPPY FOR YOU.



I HAVEN'T THOUGHT MUCH ABOUT WHERE I'M GOING TO LIVE... BUT WAIT, YOU'RE NOT STAYING HERE?

WHY WOULD YOU GO BACK TO ALEXANDRIA?



WHO'S GOING BACK TO ALEXANDRIA?

DID YOU SEE CARL OUT THERE?

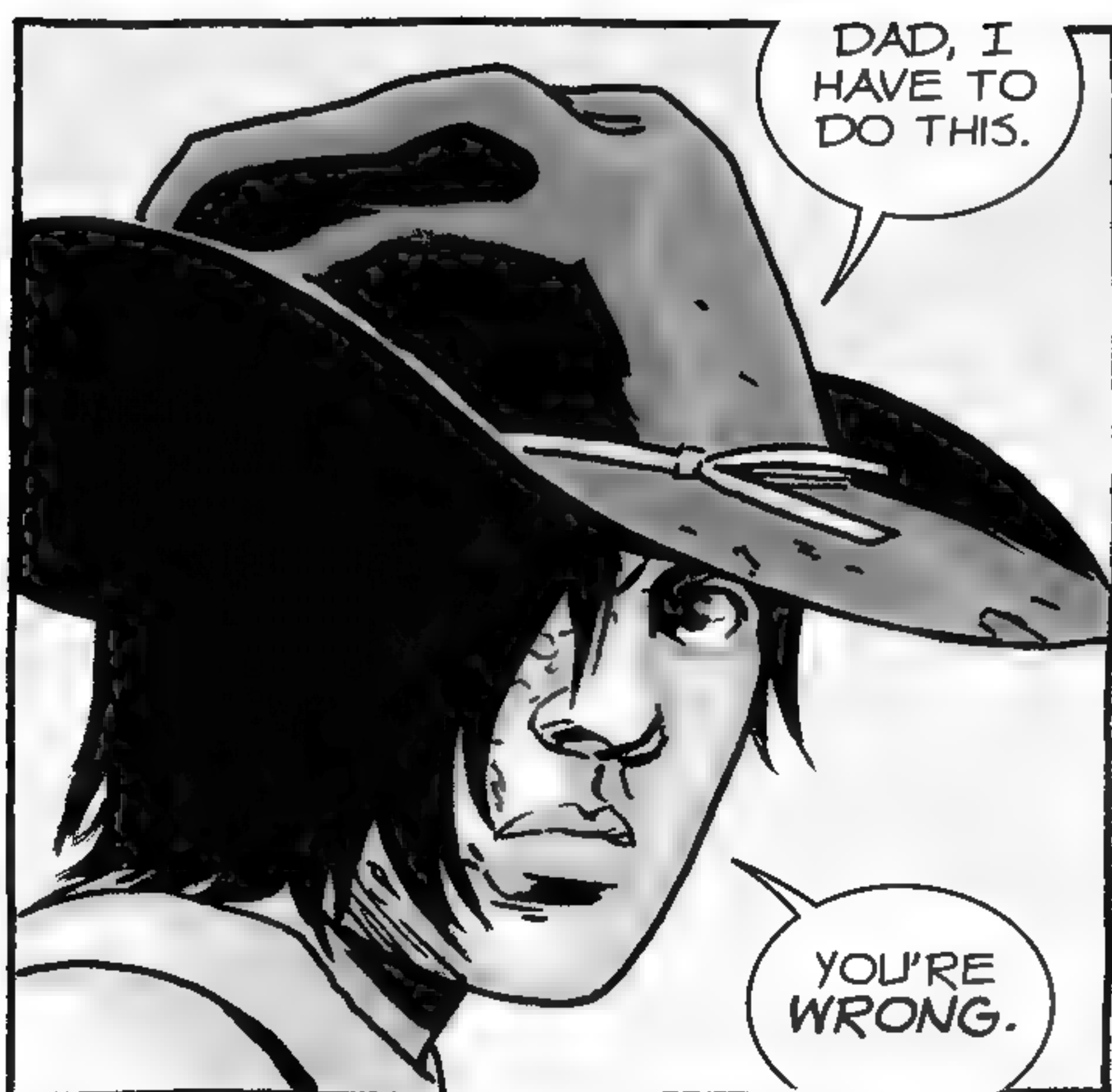


I THOUGHT HE WAS WITH YOU.

WHY?



HELP ME UP.







I'M... IN AND OUT. I THINK I JUST CAUGHT THE END OF THAT. YOU HAVE ME AND DON'T WANT TO KILL ME? OKAY.

SO WHAT NOW?



NOW WE **REBUILD**. WE'RE GOING TO UNDO ALL THE DAMAGE YOU DID... AND WITH YOU OUT OF THE WAY, WE'RE GOING TO **THRIVE**.

I'M GOING TO KEEP YOU ALIVE...
I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU **WATCH** WHAT WE BECOME SO THAT YOU CAN SEE HOW WRONG YOU WERE... HOW MUCH YOU WERE HOLDING US BACK.

YOU'RE GOING TO ROT IN JAIL UNTIL YOU DIE AN OLD MAN, NEGAN.

YOU'RE **FUCKED**.

LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

In celebration of the end of ALL OUT WAR—and Rick and co.’s victory—we’re taking this bag to the limit. Robert doesn’t know that we’re doing this UNTIL THIS MOMENT, but now he’s locked in and seeing if we can make this the biggest hack yet—and also celebrate us not having to do this twice a month.

First of all, you’ve been a crybaby about this accelerated schedule... sure, Charlie and I are complaining... I’m sure Cliff’s been complaining... maybe even Stefano. I doubt Rus is complaining... I think he gets cold if he’s not lettering three books a day. But you’re an editor... is it really that hard? Shame on you!

And good job. Seriously, we wouldn’t have been able to pull this off without you, Sean. You kept the trains running on time and this experiment went way smoother than I thought it would. I really thought we’d be limping across the finish line by the end of this, but as I sit here typing this... the DOUBLE-SIZED issue 127 (oh, boy, it’s going to be a huge issue, folks) is DONE, and Charlie and I are already deep into issue 128. We’ll be working on issue 129 by the time this issue sees print.

Which brings me to the real all-star of this arc... Charlie Adlard, ladies and gentlemen. Holy crap, how did you pull this off? The art in this volume is some of the densest, most lushly illustrated art this series has seen and you’ve done it in record time. Bravo, sir! Let’s do it again sometime. Did I say that? I promise we’re never going to do this again! Well... not any time soon!

It looks like mixed messages will be the theme of this Hacks.

Stefano! I’m sure it was a little difficult to come onto a team that had been working like a well-oiled machine for a hundred years or however long it’s been. I’ll be damned if you didn’t just jump right in and kick a whole bunch of ass. I’m so happy that you’re staying on the book after this arc, this book has been looking great!

And part of this is because of Cliff Rathburn’s amazing tones. Stefano is not spotting blacks as heavily as Charlie would in his inks, so there’s been a lot more open space to tone and Cliff has been handling it masterfully.

I joke about how fast Rus is (mainly because he letters almost every Image Comic at this point), but it shouldn’t go unnoticed how much fantastic work you do and the fact that you hold it all together while still doing some of the BEST lettering in the business is simply amazing. Bravo.

Sean... you suck.

LETTERS! (and oh, my god this file is long... good thing I didn’t save it for that absolute last minute!)

Mr. Kirkman,

I’m a 41-year school psychologist and parent of two. And as much as I want to think that I’m a professional and mature adult, I have truly become a kid again reading TWD Comics. The funny thing is...I’ve NEVER read a comic book in my life before this series! Nada one growing up as a kid. So, thank you for opening my eyes to the world of graphic novels. Reading about these amazing characters you’ve created is like a graduate psychology class within itself. Looking forward to the next issue. Death to Negan...clinically speaking of course!

Mike Markowitz

Dublin, Ohio

Kicking it off with some positivity! Let’s naturally see where it goes from there!

Mr. Kirkman,

I am the Christian that wrote in about the Jesus scene in #122.

Thank you for your reply to my letter. It is the first time that a letter I have written to a comic was ever printed in the back, so that was kind of cool. On the other hand, I’ve never been told that I am on the “wrong side of history” before. From your response, it is obvious that you completely disagree with the Christian faith. I understand that Jesus in the Walking Dead is not the same Jesus that is in the Bible. I never claimed that he was. I do, however, believe that Jesus is a Holy Name and should be treated as such. I am not “offended” by homosexuals or by homosexuality as you suggested that I am in your response; I merely have a Biblical viewpoint of homosexuality (which is mentioned in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

Because the Bible has been translated and reinterpreted countless times, does it necessarily say what you think it does? I know the judgment calls we’ve made in our Spanish language trades, I can’t imagine the margin of error in the Bible. The New Testament was originally written in Greek! You know that saying, “It’s all Greek to me”? It’s about the SAME LANGUAGE! Take a look at how those verses approximately read in its original language and tell me you think it says exactly what you think it does:

η ουκ οιδατε οτι αδικοι βασιλειαν θεου ου κληρονομησουσιν μη πλανασθε ουτε πορνοι ουτε ειδωλολατραι ουτε μοιχοι ουτε μαλακοι ουτε αρσενοκοιται

ουτε κλεπται ουτε πλεονεκται ουτε μεθυσοι ου λοιδοροι ουχ αρπαγες βασιλειαν θεου ου κληρονομησουσιν

ALSO, and I don’t mean to really make more of a stand on this, but there’s an awful lot of things the Bible condemns; eating shellfish and working on a Sunday among them. So you shouldn’t really pick and choose. Basically you should be equally offended if a character called Jesus works on a Sunday... and I’d wager you’re not, so that is a sign of intolerance toward people you don’t agree or identify with. That’s all.

I completely expected you to disagree with me, most people are all about people expressing their beliefs as long as they are not Christian beliefs, so I was not surprised by your response. Maybe I was wrong to suggest that TWD’s Jesus’ sexuality was a jab at Christianity because it is such a “non-issue” for you as the writer, but not considering that a gay character named Jesus would be offensive to the Christian Community says a lot about your respect of Christians.

You have created a very unique and interesting universe with The Walking Dead and it appeals to many people (a ton of people at my church love the show). I look forward to the next issue every time I go to the comic shop. I really enjoyed this issue, too, and I will continue to buy the book for now because I love it so much and I want to see where it goes, but I only ask that you treat your readers with respect. In a world where everyone gets offended at everything, remember the Christians that read your comic and watch your show. I’m not asking you to agree with my beliefs because I certainly do not agree with yours, but if you are asking your readers to show tolerance and be open-minded, I am asking that you be tolerant of our beliefs as well.

Thank you,
Matt

Thank you for writing in, and I do apologize if I offended you in any way. I sincerely appreciate you continuing to read the book and I’m glad you still enjoy it. Maybe “the wrong side of history” remark was a bit harsh, but I do think that we have two distinct opposing views on this, and the population of the country is moving toward one side or the other... and history will judge which one of us is correct.

So let’s just table this and check back in during the next decade or so? Deal? Let’s meet back here at issue 250. Cool?

hey there Kirky wirky and Sean... um... Sean,

First off, just wanted to say thank for all the great work you guys do. I first got into the book shortly before the TV show came to

air (little late, I know... always heard good things)...
I devoured every issue up to that point (60+?) in less than 3 days and haven't turned back since. All Out War has been a pretty intense story but I'm ready for it to end. I'm excited to see where the book goes afterwards and am ready to move on. As an aside, in this issues Letter Hacks it was suggested taking a trip to the White House. You shot it down! We're supposed to be right outside DC, right? Take a damn trip to DC! Hell, they could look for some super-fortified buildings... maybe see the first semblance of organized government as they (government) turn back anyone trying to get in the city or certain monuments. Or even come on over my way to Baltimore. Could be some really new paths to take we haven't seen in this world so far.

We've been to DC. It's been largely overrun by walkers and looted for supply runs, but I don't think we need to return there anytime soon. And if you want to extrapolate that to mean that symbolically Washington is a place best left in the past... that, too. Besides, it looks like Rick's got bigger ideas.

Speaking of Letter Hacks, though, comes to the main point I wanted to write in. The first two letters, by Paul Johnson and "Matt." I want to congratulate both guys for taking the guts to write in to the book and Skybound for publishing the letters to open this dialogue. Just a few points I wanted to touch on here.

Matt: I grew up in a largely Latino area close to the US/Mexico border. I had a good friend growing up who came out in high school; his name is Jesus (Hey-Zeus, thank you Die Hard 3!). While not pronounced the same, it is spelled the same. Do you take offense to this? To see in writing, about my friend, "Jesus is gay," would that offend you? Please don't mistake this as me coming down on you for your beliefs, that is not my intent. The Walking Dead's Jesus is a fictional character whom is not presented in any manner or sort as being the same Jesus of the Bible. I think this is very much making a mountain out of a molehill.

And let's all remember that we've all been playing a game of Bible translation telephone for millennia now, and that we have arrived at Jesus via Greek AND Hebrew. Which is not to say that it's a false name, but a name that can and has stood for many things... (and THIS is where Prof. Schiffman's History of Ancient Israel lecture finally paid off!)

Kirkman: Did I mention I love you, man? I do... I love THE WALKING DEAD, THIEF OF THIEVES and I'm starting to read INVINCIBLE. However, for you to tell Matt he's wrong for being offended... well, that's just flat out incorrect. This is America, baby... Land of the Free! One of those things our forefather's fought for us all was freedom of religion. Matt very much has his beliefs and he abides by them, so it seems. Assuming Matt approaches homosexuality from a standpoint presented to him by his beliefs, that he holds the Lord's name as being sacred and, as such, something that no man should take in vain, then I say Matt has EVERY right to be offended. You telling him he is wrong for being offended is, well, wrong. Now, what SHOULD, and seemingly has, come of this is Matt's comment opening up a discussion and all viewpoints can be heard. Just because we may not agree with someone doesn't make us right and them wrong... and most times, it isn't even a matter of right or wrong, but a matter of "I understand why you feel that way. I respect your thoughts despite not being in agreement with you."

Well said.

So, just as much as I hope Matt can realize his offense is misplaced, I hope Mr. Kirkman can realize Matt's letter wasn't decrying homosexuality as wrong, but rather questioning if TWD Jesus was made gay as a swipe at Christians.

Thanks for the time and, again, thank you for printing those letters. It would have been incredibly easy to just ignore them and not print them.

Mark Foster
Baltimore, MD

I'd like to think that most everything we discuss in Letter Hacks is subject to well reasoned debate. Except fans of Daryl. There's no telling those folks NOTHING.

I'm willing to admit that I maybe jumped the gun a little bit by lumping Matt's offense to the storyline to being a stance against homosexuality entirely. I do respect people's religious beliefs whether or not I entirely agree with them.

Letter Hacks,

By shooting Rick with an uncontaminated bolt Dwight has in fact saved his life! He's given Negan the impression that he's killed Rick and maintained his cover, while at the same time he's allowed Rick to come away relatively unscathed so he can regroup! Genius!

Which is why Dwight now holds Lucille. It's like that guy in a Royal Rumble that just hangs back and hangs back, and then BOOOM... sends one of the toughest competitors over the top rope. I'd cite an example, but come on, that happens in like every fucking Royal Rumble and it's still great.

I have to find out you're a wrestling fan here... like this... in front of everyone? Damn, Sean... what a let down... wait... I mean... I'm respectful of all religious beliefs... including professional wrestling.

I'm a fan strictly of the Royal Rumble. At this point, who isn't?

Dwight and Jesus are two of the best characters at the moment, I hope they stick around for a while when All Out War is done.

John Turner
Liverpool, UK

We'll just have to see. There's no telling where we're going for issue 127 and beyond! Stay tuned!

Dear Kirkman,

Alright. So I know from what I've heard you say in the past that the Walkers are called Walkers because Romero movies like "Night of the Living Dead" n' such don't exist in this universe, therefore no one knows to call them zombies. I assumed when I heard this that maybe just cool things didnt exist in these people's pop culture, making their lives more horrific than it needed to be BEFORE the outbreak even happened.

So, to the point! issue 123 comes around, and here's Andrea using the term "Turned up to Eleven." This implies, clearly, that the movie "This is Spinal Tap" did in fact exist to bring this phrase into their lives. Which is awesome, and I give you much respect for it.

However, if thats not the case, and Andrea is just using the term willy nilly without any precedent set by Spinal Tap, well then thats just damn dissapointing. Cause thats pretty messed up of you to create a world without Spinal Tap during your world-building process.

You sick bastard.

I don't even know who the fuck you are,

Nick G.
Denver, Colorado

#125 has a moment like that as well with Jesus, which I'm sure we'll hear about. So if "Night of the Living Dead" doesn't exist, is that because George Romero doesn't exist? Is TWD basically an alt-universe where Romero wasn't alive (or say, ambitious) and thus couldn't shackle negative zombie vibes—almost like an Evil Dead-type presence—to celluloid and thus they emerged into the real world? And that we keep making zombie films in the real world because it leaches their power and makes them less likely to appear. And that lasting power of TWD basically will ward them off for a very long time to come, and none of you have to worry about an upcoming zombie apocalypse, and more about earthquakes, which are very fucking real.

I ran this theory by coworker Brian and he said that it's more likely that Romero is still alive in TWD, except he didn't get into zombie films... he got into zombie research.

I am very cruel to these characters, but I would never make anyone exist in a world without THIS IS SPINAL TAP.

Dear Kirkman & Crew,

You're making it very hard for me to decide what the best series in the franchise is. The TV Show has so far been handling a lot of the Comic material better, and with having all the characters scatter, have created a bunch of new and interesting story lines.

That's pretty cool, but then the comics have All Out War with Negan, which has been insane so far. I don't actually believe that the bolt Dwight fired into Rick had zombie guts on it, but still, it's been completely unpredictable, fantastically written, and features one of my favorite villains in the franchise so far.

And then Telltale comes out with this new story line with Carver, who has the making of a better villain than Negan, and of course Telltale has instantly won my favor by having possibly my favorite character in the franchise return. Also, Season Two has just been overall amazing so far.

I simply can't decide which one is my favorite.

So my question is this, do you ever feel that you are "competing" with the TV or Telltale writers? I know that there are a good number of people who would consider Telltale the best series (myself included), and then there as those who say that the comics are the best and none of the adaptations have done better. Funnily enough, I don't meet many people who'd praise the TV Show over the comics or Telltale's, but they've been pretty fantastic too. Among all of these fans saying which series is their favorite, do you ever feel like you're competing with people at AMC or Telltale, trying to do better than they have? And if there is any kind of competition between the people who make the different series, do you feel like it's productive?

Well, first I have to say I think this is the EXACT RIGHT position to be in as the steward of The Walking Dead in all media. Having people argue about which one is THE BEST while agreeing they're all good... is kind of awesome (and have you read the novels? You should check those out). It doesn't bother me at all that Telltale gets so much praise, they deserve it. The Walking Dead comic is the FIRST thing, but it doesn't have to be the best. In a sense, I'm the canary in the coal mine... and everyone gets to look at what I write here and allow it to inform what they do... so frankly... everything that comes after the comic SHOULD be better, damn it.

And don't forget, I'm one of the many writers on the TV show... so I'm kind of competing with myself there.

Also, a question just about the comics, do you think that the group (I won't say Rick as, well, he may be dead), will ever have a conflict with another group where it's just a clashing of ideas, and neither one is necessarily wrong? A "villain" who isn't really a villain at all, a "non-villain". Or, in an even more extreme situation, do you think there will ever be a point where another group would be justified in viewing the main group as the villains? It would certainly be interesting to have that situation appear several years or so down the line after this savior business is all sorted.

You have a guy missing a hand, a kid missing an eye... this group looks like a train wreck at times. ABSOLUTELY they could be seen as villains... and Negan makes his own point at that in #125.

Yeah!

Well, now that that is all done(though I remember you saying that numbered questions is the way to get into the letter hacks, maybe I should go back and do that?), I'll finish with some praise for the current arc. I feel like All Out War has in some way given the series more life(especially with Gaudio inking it, that guy is incredible), I love all the new characters, and I can't wait to see what happens next (I'm convinced that Rick won't die.... YET).

Lucas A

You were right!

Is it ever going to snow or rain again? I feel as if it would be more dramatic a character getting mauled in the rain by a roamer. And it hasn't snowed in forever and it should snow all the time where they live. Move them somewhere always sunny and never rains? :) Vegas baby!

Thanks for the suspense and the hype!

Eternal fan,

Drew Schroeder
Las Vegas, NV

I feel like it once snowed for 25 straight issues. No more snow!

Well, they're even FURTHER north now... so the snow would be even more realistic. It does snow in DC... so we'll see. It should rain more often... that's for sure. That's mostly just an oversight on my part. Sorry.

Eli Roth really WOULD be the best Negan, don't pass that up when the time comes, motherfucker. With all due respect, that is.

(I don't know if I'm talking to Eli here or some member of TWD team, who the fuck cares)

Well, you are definitely not talking to Eli Roth here. This is not his letters page or his comic book. But he already knocked that Bear Jew baseball bat stuff out the park, right? Seems like a natural for Negan.

Anyway, I don't know how in the shit you're gonna pull off Negan on AMC.. I see problems...

Triforce

Bah! It'll be great.

Hey, Robert and co.

I know you've flat out said that the Dixon brothers will never be in the books (I wholeheartedly like that decision), but has Charlie ever drawn them? If the answer is yes, then for the love of Shiva the Tiger, show us!

Kenny from California

Not to my knowledge, no.

Maybe in a con sketch I haven't seen... but yeah, I don't think so either.

Dear Kirkman and friends

i just read 124 and the letter hacks in that issue were fucking ridiculous ive sent in several letters and im not even gunna punctuate this time because apparently there is no standard for these letters at all so i love the comic with a burning passion and there are a few things i want to know

I used to proof your letters, but goddamn that was a waste of time, and honestly... I felt like it made you all look better than you deserved. So now everyone's letters are presented exactly as they're sent, the English language be damned.

1. everyone wont shut the fuck up about shiva and its annoying fuck the tiger its dead. that being said can u please clarify whether animals can be infected and reanimated or not because alot of people think so and im almost positive that youre going

to eventually reveal the cure for the zombie plague lies with the animals ezeial and michonne allude to that fact in issue 117

They do? I think you may be misreading things. There are no zombie animals in this world. They can't be infected.

2. Did you notice that you chose to make both community recruiters gay i dont think that was your intention given that you explained how you wanted to show how sexuality is meaningless especially in this world but i couldnt help but see that both aaron and jesus are both gay and had the same exact job

Yeah... that certainly wasn't intended.

i cant wait to see what happens next and i hope everyone shuts their stupid fucking faces over that stupid tiger it was cool while it lasted get over it

Keep up the good work (but make better choices for letter hacks)

Tyler Spinoso

Dear TWD,

I'm a huge fan of the comic books and the show, but the comic book is definitely more interesting. Anyways, I just finished comic #124, and I LOVED it. Really glad to see Eugene becoming the badass he needs to be. I eagerly wait for the next comic to come out, and I am going to hate going back to monthly releases, though I am excited to read #127. I would like to ask a few questions though (and they will be questions).

1.) Is there any chance that you'll go back to biweekly releases sometime in the near future?

At the right time? Sure. And then I will quit.

Oh, you will not... RIGHT?

2.) Is there any chance that Rick is actually going to survive AOL? Things are looking pretty bad right now, and I'd like to see him make it through.

You're talking to an AOL survivor—it can be done. I also survived Prodigy. (See what happens when I don't proof these?)

3.) Did you have to kill Kal so easily? Not going to bitch too much about it, but I would have liked to see a Savior-kabob with his spear.

Yeah... I really should have shown someone getting hit with one of those... damn. Eventually, for sure. There's an amazing scene in THE PROPOSITION where a guy gets speared... it's insane... I mean, if you're just dying to see something like that. It's a good movie.

4.) Can you keep Michonne and Jesus safe? By far the two greatest characters in TWD.

Not much drama in keeping the best characters safe...

Indeed...

5.) Is any safe haven going to be safe after AOW? Seems like Negan is pretty good at fucking those up...

Not much drama in keeping safe havens safe either...

Also indeed.

6.) Way back, was Father Gabriel giving over survivors to The Hunters in order to secure his own safety?

No. That would have come up by now if he was. I feel like they tracked Rick's group to that church... they didn't know Gabriel was there before that.

Well, that list was a bit longer than I'd planned. The headlights idea in #124 was genius. Glad to see Ezekiel being less of a pussy. Whether or not Negan dies, a novel on him would be GREAT.

Jordan

No plans right now!

This is tough to write because The Walking Dead is my favourite story... I'm having a hard time believing the the saviours gunked up weapons work. If it weren't for The Governor making-out with his zombified daughter, or the constant killing of romers who's blood has most definitely spilled onto one of the survivors wounds then I would believe you. Your new "gunked up weapons" rule is to inconsistent with previous issues. It feels almost cheap. Robert I hope that something changes and changes soon. I like all out war but it feels cheap, unlike most arcs I have predicted

lots of All Out War and your so called "twists". I love the walking dead but this has been the least interesting arc. I also hope that TWD continues to be popular on TV at least until Negan, but I see a downfall coming soon, and I also hope that you don't milk the shit out of it. End the show by season 7, 8 by the latest.

<3 The Walking Dead
Dexter Bateman
Canmore, Alberta, Canada.

Just because something goes a long time doesn't mean it's being milked. We'll be lucky to make it to season 7, but if we go beyond that it'll be because we have a story to tell.

We certainly won't be able to tell the full story of the comics in seven seasons of the show.

Sorry you're not digging the arc... thankfully, it's over now. Maybe you'll like what comes next better.

The gunking up of the weapons is consistent. Them breaking the skin would be the same as a zombie bite breaking the skin. Normal skin contact or getting something on your mouth... kissing is just skin contact... doesn't do it.

Greetings Robert DeRobert and Sean Deshaun,

I gotta say Robert, on your AMA...

YOU WERE WRONG! You said we will learn Rick's final fate... not quite. BTW, can I ask a few questions? (Numbered, Sean. Your favorite)

1. Will Gregory do something badass that will change our minds about him?

Probably not... but he'll always think he's a badass.

2. How did Eugene and his crew make it out of the van in Issue 124?

They ran. They weren't completely surrounded yet, and Eugene knew the area and now how they could get on top of the building quickly.

3. Will we be ever getting another Special (Like an Andrea SPECIAL? Negan? Dwight?)

We've talked about it, but there'd have to be a pretty compelling reason to tell whoever's story.

4. How will A New Beginning start? (48 pages, Kirkman, you cray-cray.)

With the woman from the cover looking at us.

and 5. Please explain why Lily Caul is back in the comics *Cough* Issue 127 *Cough*

Best Wishes,
AndyTheZombie (Andy)
Murica, where the Kirkmans live

THAT IS NOT LILY!

Dear TWD,

I was incarcerated from November 12, 2012 - February 5th 2014, it was my first time ever involved with the law (other than skateboarding) and it landed me right in the joint. But what I wanted to share was while I was locked up, I had all of the volumes that were available sent in to me, I left there with Volumes 1-19. While I was there I had countless other inmates read them and get hooked on them. Even the C.O.'s at the jail were asking me to let them borrow them to read them while on their shifts. The tier I was on only 3 other inmates watched the TV show, by the time I had left the whole tier of 28+ were hooked on it. We watched every marathon that AMC had run and every Sunday @ 9 our dorm was quiet as a church mouse watching the show. I just wanted to write in and let you know just how many individuals with different tastes/backgrounds can enjoy the comic/show that you've created and continue to make. I highly doubt this will get published and or even read by you guys but I just wanted to share that information with you. Thank you for making my time locked up a little easier with your work, you'll never fully understand the appreciation. Much love and keep the issues comin!

R. Ewing

If this edition of Letter Hacks has taught us anything, the readers and watchers of TWD are a diverse group. Thanks for sharing in all the fun!

Great to hear, R. Glad to hear you're out and I hope you're doing well.

Greetings Kirkman and company,

Long-time fan, first time writer to any publication. Obligatory hats off to the success and appreciation for the many hours of story, and countless hours of imagination inspired, including the countless video games not even of the Walking Dead license and obviously inspired and reinvigorated by your revival of the zombie genre. Can smell your unique stink all over them.

Only one thing could inspire me to write in and that's because I want the dirt on my favorite character, and not in backstory book form, because Negan absolutely MUST live. I grip the pages in rage anytime someone compares him to the governor in LH, simply because this character is so much deeper. Brian is an off the deep end chaotic evil. Negan seems to be a much more

deliciously intriguing lawful neutral, in his own weird way. For the saviors Negan is the Law, and nothing is more important than

Negan or his law.

So amongst my fan friends the discussion of what Negan did pre-zombie is frequent. I've come to the conclusion that my favorite idea is seeing him as a corrupt cop, ala Training Day. His militant followers all have a very biker look, so at first I suspected he owned strip clubs or something. He definitely has just a touch of white collar to him. I don't see him as leading a biker gang. He definitely didn't have a heel turn like Brian, this guy was always bad and not afraid to show it, has always been a law all unto his own. I see him swooping in on his old underworld contacts and using them as the "army" by which he could gather his civilians and "protect". There's definitely 2 castes in his system, and the gentler folk that Rick tends to protect also exist in Negan's world, but are clearly 2nd class citizens who provide for the elites (himself). Yep, corrupt motorcycle cop all the way. Someone who always got what they wanted even in the old system and now is free to make the world his own. Dark Rick.

In short, please give us a spin off with Negan, and not so much a flashback. This is your best villain by far, and in light of the fact that I don't think you have the balls to kill off Rick yet, he's the reason I continue to read.

Obligatory Fuck You,
Matt Evyl
Las Vegas NV

I thought we'd learn more about Negan's past this arc, but maybe we'll just have to wait until it's revealed in a Negan Special, or somesuch.

Hey... he's still alive... so theoretically we'll find more out about him someday!

Yo! Robby K. and S-Mack!

I started reading the Comics in fall of 2012, and haven't stopped since. Started watching the TV show shortly after. I love them both (but a little more on the comics). There is seriously nothing in the Walking Dead franchise you haven't enticed me to sink my hard earned money into. So congrats on making The Walking Dead a serious obsession for me. So, having this obsession, I have a few questions.

1). I heard that if I have numbered questions I will be guaranteed a spot in letter hacks. Is this true?

No. It's just a coincidence.

2). What's up with The Walking Dead: The Covers vol. 2?? It's been postponed like 3 times!!

You'll see this sometime after THE CUTTING ROOM FLOOR.

3). Kirkman! Make up your mind on the timeline of The Walking Dead! does it start in 2003? or 2012? or 1492?? This is bugging the heck out of me. You're very wishy-washy about it.

We have an internal timeline of the series events, but no specific starting date/year.

I don't like to nail down a starting date. I know this book will eventually be dated... but I want to stave that off for as long as I can. At this point... you can pick up issue one and it could be 2003... or it could be 2014... although there'd be a LOT more cell phones if it was.

4). If the apocalypse did start in 2003, that would mean that Carl would be 18 in 2014 (I did the math) which makes him eligible to graduate high school this year. Class of 2014! WHOO!

The book is clearly not progressing in real time.

5). In issue 122 it is revealed that Paul Monroe has a boyfriend. I have only one issue with this. Earlier in All Out War, when Negan reveals he had kidnapped Gregory, and he says to leave while they still can, Mr. Jesus says that all he has at the Hilltop is "a bunch of books". Wouldn't a significant other be worth mentioning, let alone going home for?

Unless you're bluffing.

Alex is a very close friend of Jesus... but not his boyfriend. Still, he obviously cares about the guy, so he was just bluffing.

Anyways, that's all I wanted to address. Thanks for an awesome reason to spend money and keep it the way it's going. I look forward to the ending of All Out War.

-Sam S.
from California
#BAYAREA

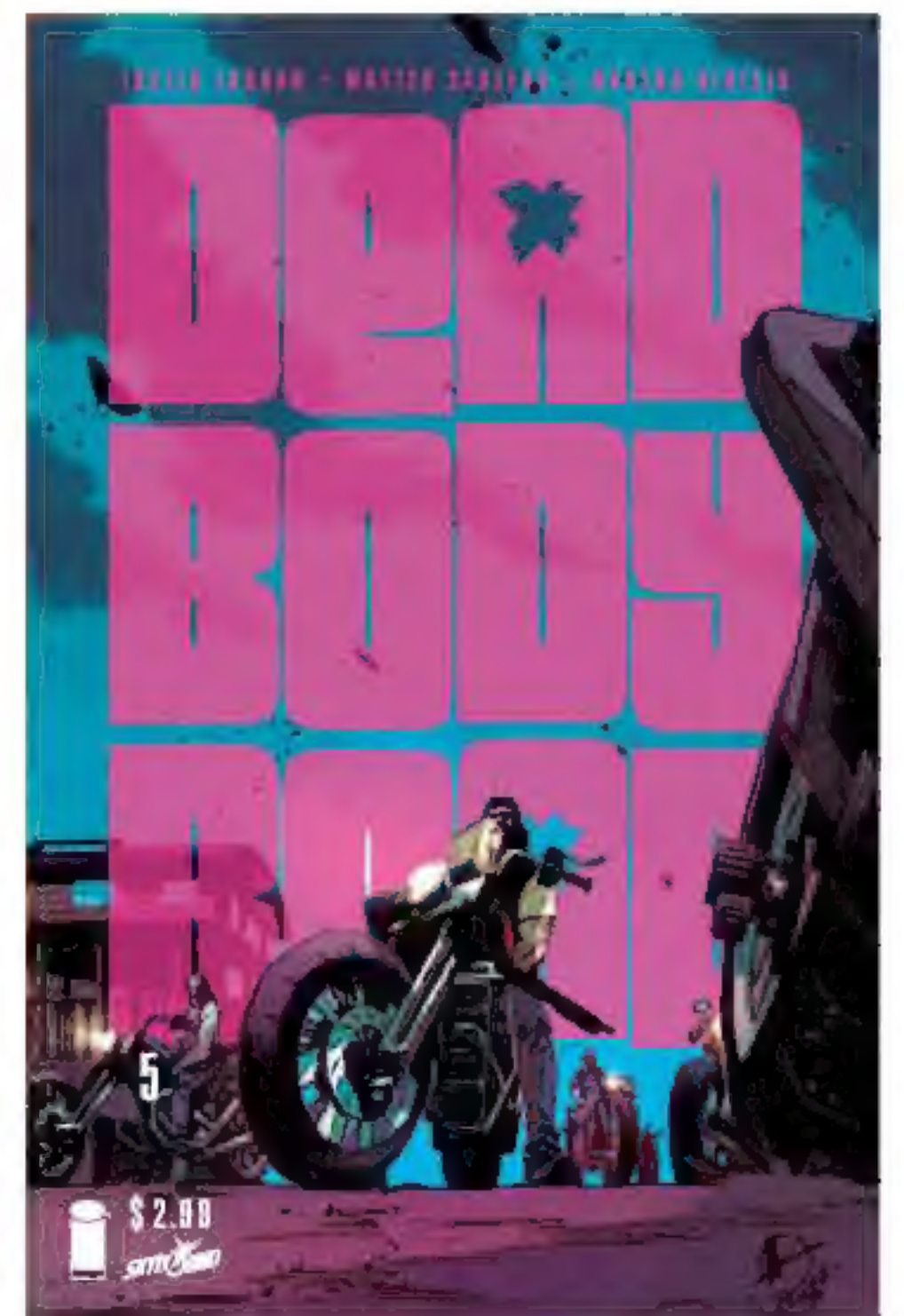
In three weeks, the double sized #127. It's perhaps the most surprising issue since... this issue? Lots of stuff we'll be talking about after that one, for sure. Talk then!

-Sean Mackiewicz

It's going to be great! And VERY DIFFERENT! Buckle up, readers! Buckle up!

-Robert Kirkman

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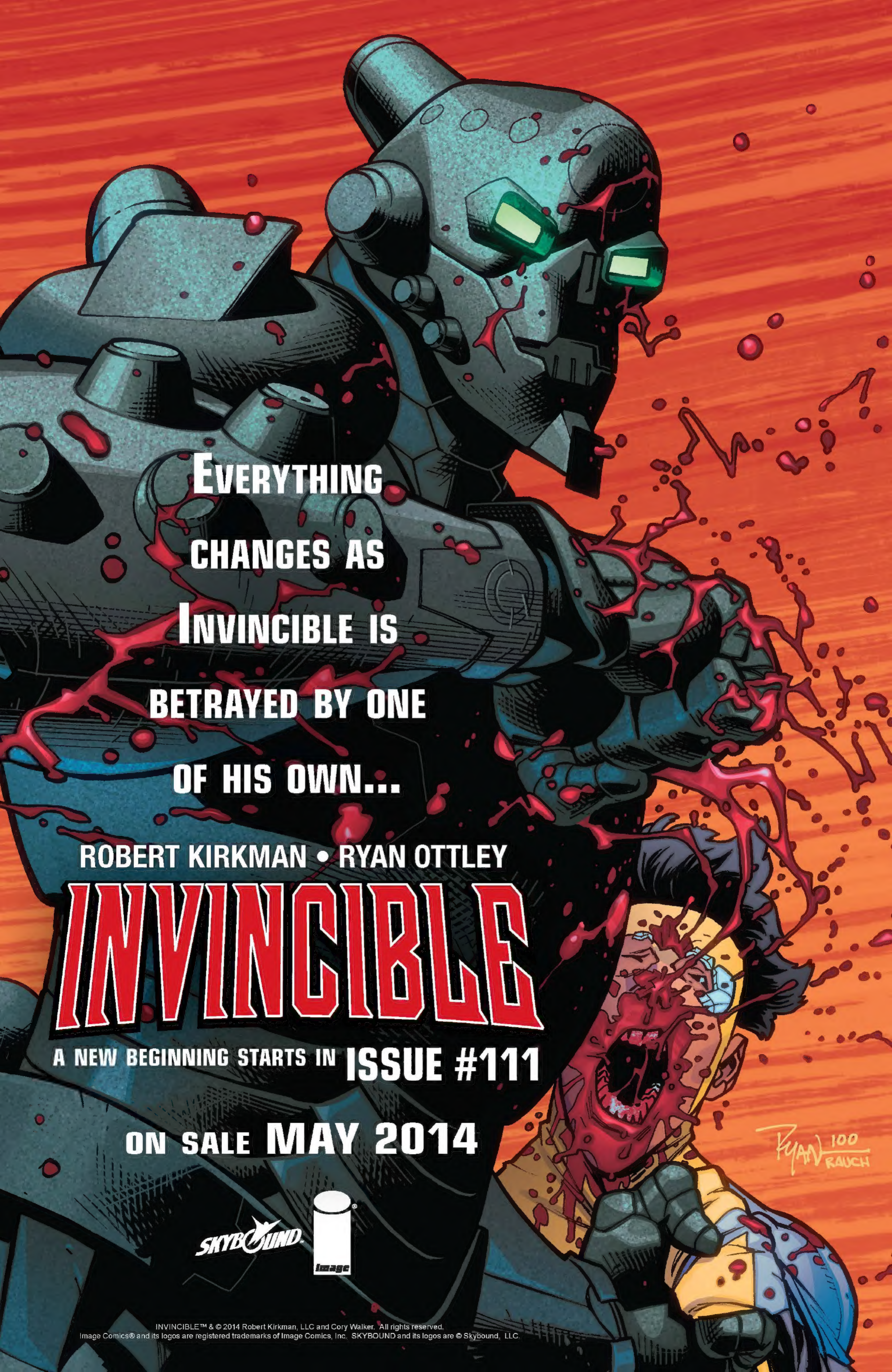


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WOLF

